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Canada

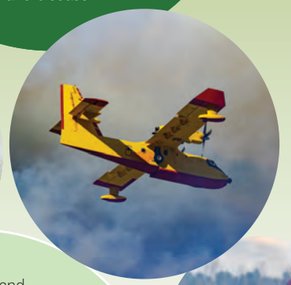
Human linkages throughout the forest sector supply chain

More than 1/3 of Canada's total population lives in or near forests and enjoys the environmental, physical and cultural benefits that they offer.

Many Indigenous forest stewardship and management practices have protected and preserved forests for generations.

Indigenous knowledge tells us a lot about forests, how to manage them, and how important they are to the environment.

Canada's forest supply chain begins with seeds. These seeds grow into trees that are sometimes cut down and harvested for their wood. Scientists can help us by selecting the most promising seeds that will provide growing trees with higher resistance to pests and disease.



Scientists and researchers help to improve the sustainability of forest management by studying and developing innovative techniques that can be used to optimize forest resources while minimizing negative impacts on the environment and biodiversity.

Canada's forests are sustainably managed for timber. They also provide non-timber forest products such as maple syrup, wild blueberries, wild mushrooms, medicines, natural dyes, animal products and plant fibres.

Indigenous partners, companies, and local communities all influence the forest sector and create various jobs in the forest sector (e.g., loggers, truckers, woodlot owners and woodlot workers who are key to moving harvested wood and non-timber forest products out of the forest).

Over 11,000 workers in Canada's forest sector are Indigenous. Many more Indigenous people and communities are owners and important stakeholders in the forest sector.

Wood pellets are used to heat homes, heat cooking grills, and as animal litter and bedding.

Forest product companies use wood to make traditional products: pulp and paper, packaging, low-carbon construction materials like lumber, wood building systems and other products that help Canada reach its net-zero goals.

Most products get distributed using truck, rail or marine transportation, but for some facilities and some rural, remote and Indigenous communities, bioenergy from biofuels is distributed through district heating systems.

Some forest product companies (refineries) make use of the residues left over from traditional forest activities to make advanced bioproducts and biofuels. Biorefined materials exist in products that people use every day (e.g., medications, cosmetics, bandages, containers, food packaging, glue and perfumes).

Scientists, researchers, and academics look for innovative ways to use refined forest products to replace plastics and packaging with more efficient products.